

I. Listing of Claims

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A housing for an airbag module for a motor vehicle, the airbag module including a gas generator and an airbag, the airbag being deployable for providing impact protection for vehicle occupants, the housing comprising: a main housing structure and a housing cover that is connected with the main housing structure to define a hollow space for accommodation of the gas generator and the airbag, the housing cover is configured to have an outer side that faces the vehicle occupants when installed in the motor vehicle, the housing cover having an inner side opposite the outer side, the inner side having at least one side edge material weakness formed therein which is torn open upon deployment of the airbag defining an edge of the housing cover, the inner side having a hinge material weakness configured as a flat based groove formed therein defining a hinge that folds without tearing to form a cover flap upon deployment of the airbag to open the housing cover, the cover flap having a portion of the housing cover including the edge, the side edge material weakness and hinge material weakness are invisible as viewed along the outer side of the housing cover by the vehicle occupants, and the housing cover is connected with the main housing structure by a perforated section that tears open upon deployment of the airbag allowing the hinge to fold, wherein the perforated section has one or more perforations formed completely through a part of the main housing structure that extends away from the housing cover adjacent to the inner side and which is covered by the housing cover when installed in the motor vehicle so as to not be visible to the vehicle occupants.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A housing according to Claim 1, wherein the perforated section defines an axis of a tear line of perforation that is orientated generally parallel to a vertical axis of the motor vehicle.

4. (Previously Presented) A housing according to Claim 1, wherein the perforated section is formed on a vehicle body side housing section of the housing.

5. (Previously Presented) A housing according to Claim 1, wherein the perforated section has the one or more perforations formed between bridges, which create a connection between a vehicle body side housing section and the housing cover of the housing and wherein the connection fails upon deployment of the airbag causing the housing cover to tear away from the main housing structure as the housing cover tears at the at least one side edge material weakness and hinges about the hinge material weakness.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A housing according to Claim 1, wherein the perforated section is arranged generally vertical, and the at least one side edge material weakness and the hinge material weakness are arranged generally vertically to one another.

8. (Previously Presented) A housing according to Claim 1, wherein the hinge material weakness is formed on the inner side of housing cover, which is close to and parallel to an axis of rotation of the housing cover upon deployment of the airbag.

9. (Previously Presented) A housing according to Claim 8, wherein the hinge material weakness in the area of a flap axis is formed in such a way that the housing cover does not tear open there.

10. (Previously Presented) A housing according to Claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a plastic material.

11. (Previously Presented) A housing according to Claim 1, wherein the housing is the housing for a side airbag device.